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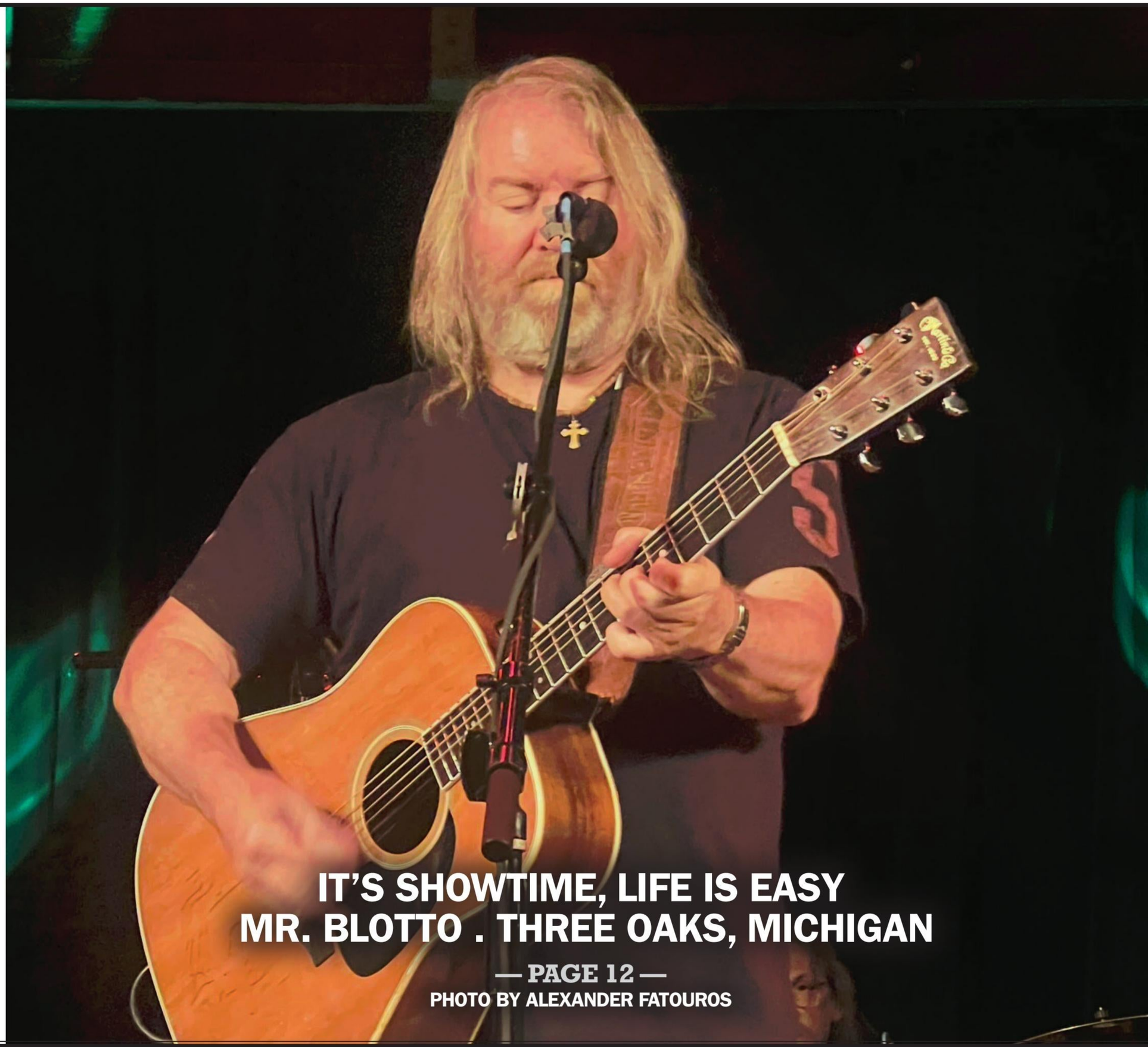

IT'S SHOWTIME, LIFE IS EASY MR. BLOTTO . THREE OAKS, MICHIGAN

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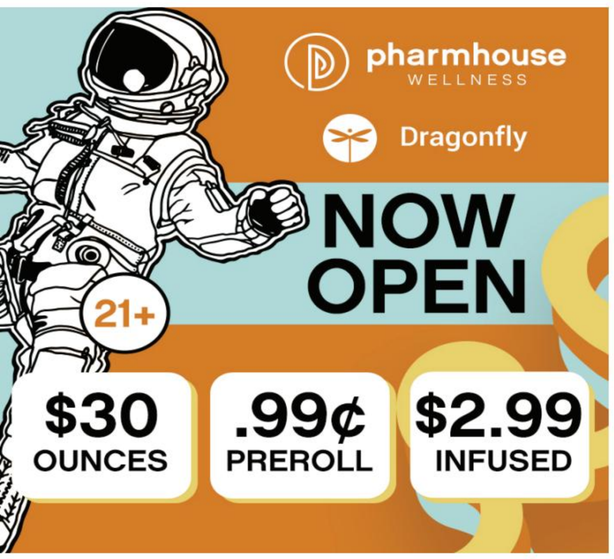
PHOTO BY ALEXANDER FATOUROS



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Berrien County Health Department begin beach monitoring program

The Berrien County Health Department will begin its annual beach monitoring program starting Tuesday, May 27 to help ensure public beaches are safe for swimming.

Each summer, BCHD's Environmental Health team collects and tests water samples from public beaches in Berrien County. Weekly testing focuses on detecting E. coli, which is an indicator of waste contamination and the presence of other harmful bacteria.

E. coli bacteria are found in human and animal waste. Elevated levels can indicate the presence of other pathogens, such as giardia, hepatitis or cholera, according to Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. Rainstorms, agricultural and wildlife activity and sewage system failures can result in these pathogens entering the water at beaches.

"The Berrien County Health Department's Environmental Health team works diligently all summer long to help keep our beaches safe for all to enjoy," said Nick Margaritis, BCHD's environmental health manager. "We also encourage the community to stay informed and follow advisories by checking Beachguard before visiting public beaches."

BCHD's water testing results are updated weekly and posted on Beachguard, EGLE's online tool that displays the results of water samples from health departments across the state. Community members can sign up to receive email alerts for advisories and closures here.

If unsafe levels of E. coli are indicated in the weekly testing, BCHD issues a no-swim advisory for the affected beaches. BCHD then continues to monitor the water quality at the beach and lifts the no-swim advisory once the bacteria levels return to a safe range. Notices about no-swim advisories are shared on Beachguard, BCHD's website, Facebook and Instagram.

BCHD's Environmental Health team also works to keep campgrounds and public pools safe for community members by performing regular sanitation and safety inspections. Community members are encouraged to report any health or safety concerns in these spaces at bit.ly/4jKm5iH or by calling the Environmental Health team at 269-927-5623.

Learn more about BCHD's beach, campground and public pool programs at www.bchdenvironmentalHealth. — STAFF REPORTS

ICE holds on jail inmates Top 30

A suspected drunk driver is the 34th person to be ordered held in the La Porte County Jail this year by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for potentially being in the country illegally.

Victor Choc Cruz, 29, now faces possible deportation.

La Porte County Police Capt. Derek Allen said 24 of those individuals have already been picked up by authorities from the ICE regional office in Chicago.

Currently, the other suspected undocumented immigrants in the jail are awaiting transfer into federal custody.

In comparison, Allen said ICE placed holds on just two inmates from the jail last year.

ICE has been more aggressively enforcing U.S. immigration laws under the direction of President Donald Trump, who's following through on his promise of mass deportations since taking office on January 20.

In following standard procedure, Allen said the sheriff's office notifies ICE whenever an arrest is made of an individual believed to be "undocumented and possibly been in the country not legally."

He said it's then up to ICE to decide whether to place a hold on and later pick up each individual inmate to investigate their legal status in the country.

"ICE makes that determination," Allen said.

Cruz was living in South Bend when stopped Sunday afternoon for traveling 74 in a 55 mile per hour zone in a 2008 Dodge Charger on Indiana 2 just west of Rolling Prairie, according to La Porte County Police.

Police said Cruz handed the officer an international driver's license along with an identification card from the Guatemalan consulate.

His alleged blood alcohol level more than twice the legal limit was .185 percent, police said.,

Cruz is charged in La Porte Superior Court 3 with Class A misdemeanor operating while intoxicated and Class C misdemeanor never obtaining a valid driver's license.

Allen said there was one hold placed by ICE on a jail offender in 2023 and 2022 and none in 2021. — STAN MADDUX

To have a chance @ freedom, one must master how one feels in unpleasant situations. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Township Board approves changes to marijuana regulatory and zoning ordinance

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Township Board approved an ordinance to amend the township code of ordinances and zoning ordinance regarding marijuana businesses, as amended by the New Buffalo Township Board, as well as adopted a police power ordinance prohibiting human directional advertising, at a special meeting Friday, May 23.

Board members reviewed the recommendations for some amendments to the marijuana regulatory ordinance and the marijuana zoning ordinance made by the Planning Commission at their May meeting.

Section 257-6(B) of the Township Code of Ordinances was amended to read the following: "The township may treat the violation as a municipal civil infraction for which each day the violation continues will be a separate offense, and impose the following fines: first violation, $2,500; second violation, $5,000 and third violation, $10,000."

Section 455-6.9 of the zoning ordinance was amended to read a violation will go before the township board and that a "permit may be revoked upon any violation within a five-year period."

Section 455-2.2(J)(2) of the zoning ordinance was amended to read as follows: "Map A is meant as a guideline for location of a marihuana business. The language of the ordinance sets the boundaries and is only intended on major roadways including parts of U.S. 12, M-239, O'Brien Court, Holiday Drive and Grand Avenue."

No new marijuana retail establishment applications will be accepted.

Jorge Alvarez was one of many residents to speak at the special meeting

Concerned community members packed Township Hall

Section 455-5.22 K(1) was amended to read as follows: "A marijuana establishment or medical marijuana facility may not be located within 5,280 feet of an existing public or private K-12 school; a church; a licensed daycare center; governmental office; or a public library. This distance is computed by measuring a straight line between the two closest points of the property lines on the subject parcels." K(2) will read that they "may not be on a parcel that abuts the R-1, R-2, Ag-R or MR Zoning Districts." K (3) reads they "may not be located within 5,280 feet of an existing one-family or multiple-family dwelling unless the owner of the dwelling completes an application for a waiver as part of the special land use process and records the waiver with the Berrien County Register of Deeds. This distance shall be measured from property line to property line."

With regards to both amendments, "any facility or establishment that has received preliminary approval of a special land use by the effective date of this amendment shall be exempt" of the 5,280 feet requirement and if use has been abandoned for 12 months or more, then the SLU is "invalid."

Added to the Signs portion of the zoning ordinance itself, 455-4.4, in the chart under F, "Freestanding/ Mounted Signs" and the one under G, "Wall Signs," will be the stipulation that illuminated ground and/or wall signage must be turned off outside of business hours.

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said that, in the charts, this change applies to the Marihuana Business Overlay District.

Regarding the chart in the zoning ordinance under 455-4.4 M, "Environmentally Activated Signs," for the stipulation that "temporary banners or feather signage shall be limited to one per parcel" and that the signage "may be displayed when the business is open and must be 5 feet outside of the right of way," the Marijuana Overlay district will be added as allowable districts and that this will apply to all districts - AG, C-1, C-2, Union Pier Village Overlay in the Union Pier Corridor Overlay.

Also added to the Sign portion will be the stipulation that no murals are allowed, which will apply to not just the marijuana district but "across the board," Heit said.

Currently, there are 20 dispensaries open in the township.

He listens well who takes notes. *— Dante Alighieri*

Regarding the number of licenses, Heit said that Proposal 1 to legalize cannabis in Michigan appearing on the 2018 ballot was done by a referendum and not something put forth by the legislator and "doesn't limit the number of licenses."

In response to revenue for increased police, she said the township pays for police out of its public safety millage and can use some marijuana funds to increase police protection, adding that this year, the $349,000 that they received was used for roads.

She added that work on Harbor Country Drive will begin next summer, along with a nonmotorized path.

Jorge Alvarez, who was among the 20 speakers, said he has an issue with the density and that "how it's been deployed is an issue for the community."

"We want to know why we don't have an enforcement officer dedicated to this business - from the moment they open in the morning to the moment they close at night," he said.

Denise Churchill said that, with the revenues that are coming in, the township should be working with the Berrien County Sheriff's Office and all the police departments to "increase the presence over at Exit 1." There, she said people are "constantly running the stop sign at the ramp, people are going over the traffic light and doing U-turns to go into the dispensaries – it's extremely dangerous."

To go from Exit One down to Red Arrow Highway on Wilson Road, "people are constantly speeding," although she has seen an increase in police presence – but "more is needed."

Fred Jolly said he finds it ironic that there's a sign at Exit One that says the "Gateway to Michigan" and that "the one thing being sold here, promoted here, is easily the best-known gateway drug out there – and we have it here."

"We don't need all those dispensaries in an area that at one time was a pristine and desirable place to live and because of the decision of this board, we all now have to live with this," he said.

Berrien County Sheriff Chuck Heit said that the county has increased the township's patrol and is working with the township to do that over the summer as well.

He added that U.S. Highway 12 and M-239 are governed by Michigan Department of Transportation. In a meeting with MDOT and the road department about U-turn signs it was learned that, if it's not posted, it's not illegal.

Also discussed was no parking signs and a lighted sign at the stop sign.

"There're some things that we need MDOT to help with because it's not a county road it's not under the township's prerogative it's under the state of Michigan and MDOT and we are having those conversations," he said.

Kevin Brojek, general manager at King of Budz in New Buffalo, said that the establishment has made contributions to the community, such as sponsoring Exit One in Adopt a Highway program as well as recently offering to donate to the city for its fireworks show.

"There're a lot of individuals this helps in a lot of ways but obviously there're community questions and concerns that are out there that need to be address and I support a lot of those as well," he said.

Grand Beach resident Ed Joyce said that he's concerned with the nonmotorized Marquette Greenway that's going in that will cross the railroad tracks at Grand Beach Road on U.S. Highway 12, where "there's a 90-mile and hour train without a light," and that "dope" is sold on the corner right before cyclists cross the tracks.

"Let's back up and look at it as a bigger picture and don't use Band Aids in fixing it - get aggressive and start using lists," he said, adding that he's a proponent of pros and cons lists.

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

NATURAL HERBS FOR BETTER SLEEP

The amount of sleep we need can vary based on age, lifestyle, and individual differences, but on average, adults typically require between 7 to 9 hours of quality sleep per night to function at their best.

Sleep plays a crucial role in maintaining physical and mental health, as this is the timeour bodies repair and recharge. Grogginess and lethargy only scratch the surface of insomnia's impact on the body. Lack of sleep is linked to an increased risk of diabetes, heart disease, obesity, depression, reduced immune health, and cognitive impairment. While some of these effects are cumulative, just one night of inadequate sleep triples your risk of catching a cold. And because sleep deprivation affects hormone production, you can end up eating 500 more calories per day.A hormone called ghrelin, is what signals a full stomach.Lack of sleep suppresses this hormone.

If you want to sleep better, you need to make sleep a priority in your life. While herbs may help you find restful sleep, you must first focus on establishing good sleep habits.To wind down at night, stay off all blue light technologies. Reading a book is better than a TV, phone or computer for the hour up until bedtime.

Rather than drugs, Mother Nature can work on your behalf to give you the restorative rest that you need.

Herbs that help you rest and sleep better are called nervines. They work as natural sedatives and relax our nervous systems. Start out slowly until you see what your tolerance is for any herbs listed below.They usually go to work pretty quickly, so maybe an hour or so before bedtime is the best time to try them.Because it is a liquid, a small amount is better than a large glass that can get you up just to use the bathroom.

PASSIONFLOWER is a great herb that is helpful in supporting the neurotransmitters that help induce sleep without adverse side effects.

SKULLCAP has been researched quite heavily and states that it can offer antidepressant effects and anti-anxiety activity. This research supports the herb's reputation for offering soothing, relaxing effects.

CHAMOMILE is well known and is often used as a natural sleep aid due to its calming and relaxing properties, which can lead to improved sleep quality. It contains apigenin, an antioxidant that interacts with GABA receptors in the brain, promoting relaxation and drowsiness.LEMON BALM has calming effects that can help ease anxiety and reduce sleep disturbances. Lemon balm may also help improve the duration of deep sleep.

There are many others like Lavender, Valerian root, rose petals and more.You can also experiment on blending the herbs and find out which works best for you. I like to use about 2 tsp. of herb in 12 oz. of hot water. Let it sit for about 10 minutes with a lid. Strain. Add honey if you like.Sip and relax.

Always use caution combining any medications with herbs. Talk with your healthcare practitioner, or do your own research.

Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.

Welcoming summer at annual Family Festival

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A more-than-25-year-old tradition, St. Mary of the Lake Family Festival heralded the unofficial start to summer Friday through Sunday, May 23-25.

Kids and adults hopped aboard the traditional carnival rides, enjoyed elephant ears, cotton candy and other hallmark festival treats and tried their luck at the midway games.

Carnival goers could also grab a homemade sweet treat from the bake sale that was being held by the Altar and Rosary Society (ARS) and homemade crafts from the craft booths.

Ezra and Charlynn Johnson enjoy the merry-go-round

Ruby Petersen and Rory Petersen and Mia Bilbrey enjoy carnival treats

Jack Schneller and Billy and Margaux Mikaitis show off their prizes

Altar and Rosary Society members Sue Kaminski, Teresa Piner, Margie Peterson and Julie Payne man the bake sale

A Saturday afternoon scene of the St. Mary's Fest

Carnival goers enjoy the midway

Children walk precariously across a bridge as part of one of the many attractions

Children ride on a dragon rollercoaster

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FEEDING AMERICA

SPORTS

Raiders end regular season with nail biting doubleheader sweep

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders seemed to be cruising to victory but fell behind then bounced back to win the first game of a doubleheader at home Tuesday, May 27, in the final inning in girls' high school softball.

The Raiders defeated Michigan Lutheran 11-10 on a game winning single by first baseman Johnna Rochefort.

The Titans jumped out to an early 2-0 lead but the Raiders in the bottom of the second inning tied the score on a two-run single to center field by Lydia Habel.

The Raiders started the next inning with a walk by Ava Ledesma, who scored on a sharp line drive single on a ball that rolled deep into the outfield gap from Rochefort.

Addie Lynch joined Rochefort on the base paths with an infield single and both of them crossed home plate on a base hit from Emmerson Collins.

One more runner scored for the Raiders on a bases loaded walk by Emma Seifert before the inning was over.

In the fourth inning, Rochefort after a single to right field advanced to third base on a one hop double to the left center field fence by Lynch then scored on a sacrifice bunt from Greta Vollman.

Michigan Lutheran pulled to within one run by scoring three times in the fifth inning and once in the sixth inning.

The Raiders extended their lead to three runs going into the final inning, though, on a run scoring single from Lynch, who crossed the plate from third base when Collins laid down a sacrifice bunt.

However, the Titans took a one run lead when four runners crossed the plate, including three who reached base on walks and from being hit by a pitch.

The Raiders tied the game after Habel walked then advanced to third base on two wild pitches and scored on a sacrifice bunt from Seifert.

Ava Ledesma then drew a walk and following a passed ball from the pitcher scored the winning run on a hard line drive base hit from Rochefort.

After losing lead in the final inning, Head Coach Erick Rochefort said he had a quick talk with his players before they stepped to plate.

"I could feel the positive energy. They were ready for a comeback," he said.

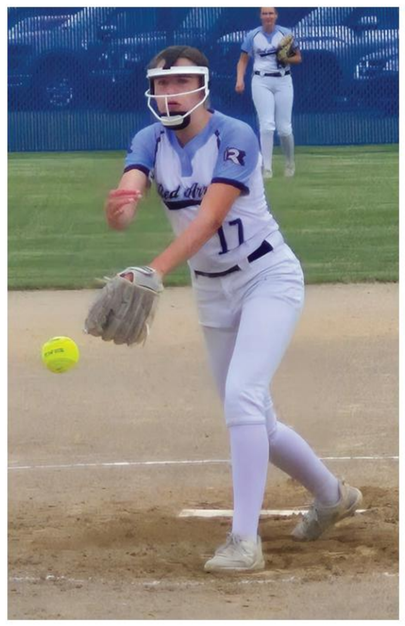
The Raiders after leading by six runs held on to defeat the Titans 8-7 in the second game.

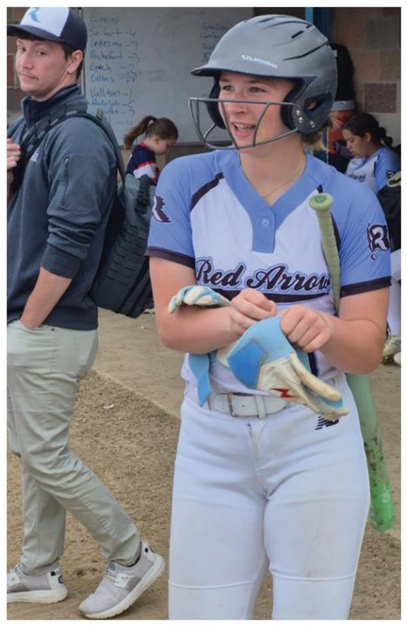
Rylee Rudolph pitched the entire game for the Raiders, who were led on offense from a triple, double and single from Collins.

The Raiders with just two seniors and one junior are 18-11 heading into the District 4 tournament Saturday, May 31, against Cassopolis at Buchanan High School.

Rochefort said his players are going into the tournament with confidence.

"As long as the girls play the game the way we know they can, we can surprise a lot of people in districts. I'm proud of this team and can't wait to see what they do on Saturday," he said.





From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

As the weekend approached, I had no idea who or what I was going to write about this week.

The Bears had a couple of practices and their coach, Ben Johnson, continued to impress the media, fans, league, and organization itself, but nothing caught my attention enough to write about.

The Cubs and Sox continued to play much like they have for the first third of the season. The Bulls and Blackhawks, while they have a lot of decisions to make during their offseason's, haven't made any moves yet. It seemed to me that the story that was getting the most attention in Chicago was the WNBA's Chicago Sky and their player, Angel Reese.

Angel continued her war of words and deeds with Caitlin Clark, and quite frankly I'm not on Angel's side. Clark has brought so much attention to women's basketball, increasing the opportunity for players to make considerably more money and have a lot more fans, and players like Angel and her fellow thugs throughout the league have allowed their petty jealousies get the better of them.

They have practically mugged Clark and if they're not careful, they'll end up playing in front of one hundred people again and making about the same amount of money as the parking attendant.

So instead of talking about any of those subjects, let's talk about a young man who never gave up on his dreams, and this Memorial Day weekend, his dreams came true.

The Cubs had a catcher in their farm system who decided to opt out of his minor league contract about ten day's ago. He felt blocked because the two catchers on the Cub roster were both having fabulous seasons and a fellow minor league catcher was tearing the cover off of the ball. Because of this he decided to move on but after a few days he changed his mind and decided to re-sign.

A few day's later, starting catcher Miguel Amaya strained his left oblique and was put on the injured list, and the Cubs decided to replace him wit the newly re-signed catcher. He got up to the big leagues Sunday and prepared to watch the game and meet his new teammates. In a bit of serendipity, the second Cub catcher became sick at game time so the Cubs new, third string catcher had to step in.

Reese McGuire is his name, the same man who said to never give up on your dream. In his first at bat for the Cubs, he hit a two run homer. In the eight inning, the Cubs were losing 8-7 and McGuire hit his second homer of the game to tie the score and set the stage for a Cub 11-8 victory. Only twice before in history has a players first game in a Cub uniform resulted in two homers. Congratulations Mr. McGuire.

Welcome to Chicago.

Walt Disney said, "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

It's my job as a reporter to not be about the business of making friends or enemies but just be in the tireless pursuit of truth.
— Stephen A. Smith

Michigan farmers can now hunt deer throughout growing season

BY STAN MADDUX

Farmers in Michigan can now shoot deer throughout the growing season to protect their crops and choose anyone they want to join them in hunts.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission have teamed up to loosen the state's crop protection restrictions because of growing widespread complaints about yield losses from an exploding deer population.

The problem with crop damage from deer seems worse throughout the southern third part of the state, said Eric Anderson, a soybean educator for Michigan State University Extension.

"Deer damage is right up there close to No. 1 as far as the farmers concerns," he said.

According to the MDNR's Wildlife Division, crop protection permits to kill female deer are now valid during the entire growing season instead of just one- or two-week intervals.

In addition, permits can be applied for in advance and activated once the crop is in the ground.

Crops eligible for protection permits were also expanded to include alfalfa, winter wheat and, in some cases, overwintered cover crops.

Farmers can also have family members, friends or anyone else who wants to take part join them in hunts to protect their crops.

Previously, farmers were restricted to choosing from a state designated list of shooters on who they could invite to take part in hunts.

The leaves on soybean plants because of their sugar content seem to be what deer like most on a farm's menu.

Deer eat other crops like corn, but soybeans seem more susceptible to damage because the plants emerge from the soil quicker, allowing them to be chewed on throughout the growing season to where they're incapable of producing beans.

One farmer, John O'Hair, switched from soybeans to corn in some of his smaller fields that run along woods in Sanilac County.

The deer could simply step into his soybeans and satisfy their hunger without coming out of hiding.

"I just threw up my hands," he said.

Anderson said he's heard similar stories from growers in areas like Kalamazoo and St. Joseph counties.

"Some farmers I talked to have given up on some fields because they can't get a crop off of it," he said.

Anderson said MSU educators, and the Michigan Soybean Commission are currently looking at different possible ways of deterring deer through use of balloon figures that move in the wind to see if that will scare deer away from fields.

They're also experimenting with things like rotten egg and blood-based repellents.

Anderson said researchers are also trying to determine yield potential if there were no deer browsing whatsoever in fields to help in deciding what should be done in areas where problems are greatest.

Also included in the studies is whether farmers can plant other things along wood lines strictly for deer to consume so they won't venture deeper into fields for soybeans and corn.

"Different approaches are being investigated but nothing definitive at this point," he said.

Anderson is optimistic about finding answers to the crop yield reductions from deer, but it might take a combination of things to make a noticeable difference.

"It's a manageable issue but it's not, necessarily, a simple one, he said.

New Buffalo marks Memorial Day 2025

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Every gravestone of a veteran at Pine Grove Cemetery in New Buffalo, Chuck Baran of the New Buffalo American Legion Post 169 said, has a story.

"Look how many there are in front of you – they're all over the place," Baran said during this year's Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 26.

Baran said that it's the 250th year of the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps, it's been 70 years since World War II has passed, and it's been 50 years since the Vietnam War ended.

Those who fought in these respective wars are the "heroes of America," Baran said.

"They were willing to give their lives – we were all willing to give our lives," he said.

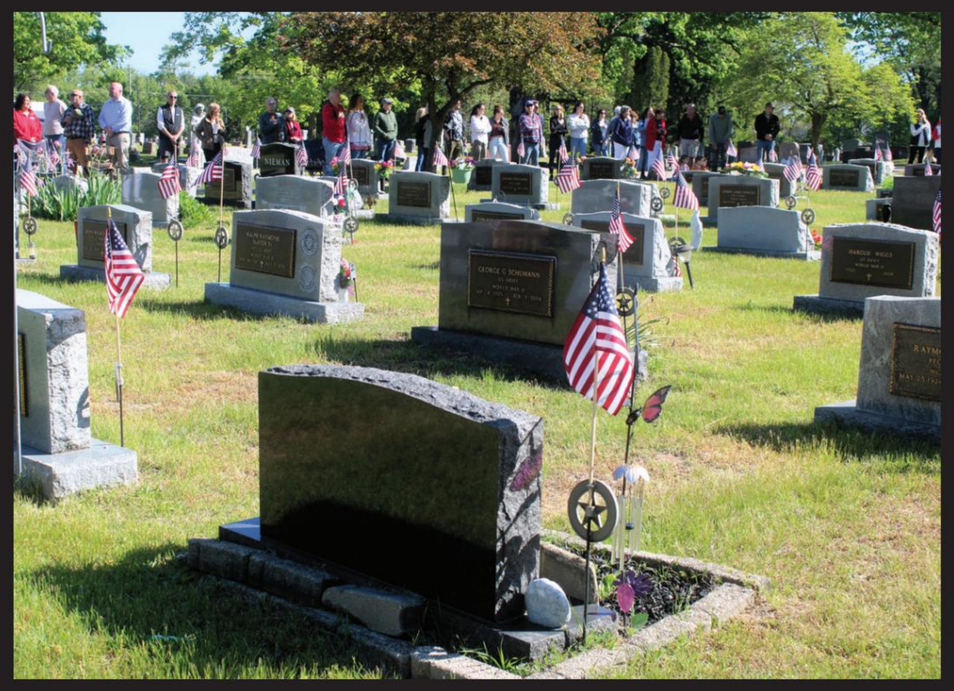
It was eight years ago when Miss New Buffalo 2025 Ellen Ripley went on a Memorial Day shopping excursion to the Outlet Mall in Michigan City with her grandmother.

Being the "little shopaholic" that she was, Ripley became upset when it began to rain.

Then, her grandmother said why it was raining: "Because it's Memorial Day and the rain is God's tears for all those who passed."

"I can't help but think of the rain as a powerful metaphor for remembrance: Just like the gentle droplets that touch

Members of the New Buffalo Royal Court with local law enforcement



Flags decorate the graves of veterans at Pine Grove Cemetary

A wreath is placed at the Veterans Memorial Garden

Chuck Baran from New Buffalo American Legion Post 169 speaks about Memorial Day

Craig Ruszkowski, a New Buffalo High School graduate headed for the Marines, poses with his dad, Sgt. in Arms Steve

Mr. New Buffalo 2025 Ekolu Brown speaks at Pine Grove Cemetary

Miss New Buffalo 2025 Ellen Ripley speaks at Pine Grove Cemetary

The New Buffalo American Legion Post 169 Honor Guard performs the 21 Gun Salute

Paying respects at Pine Grove Cemetary.

Local law enforcement and government officials pay their respects

The New Buffalo High School Band plays performs at Pine Grove Cemetary

the earth, our memories of those we have lost touch our hearts...The rain is a symphony of emotion, each drop a note in the melody of honor," Ripley said.

Still Ripley said the rain also serves as sign that God is with them – "comforting us as we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice."

"May we cherish these moments, allowing the tears of remembrance to inspire acts of kindness, unity and respect within our community and also our country," she said.

Mr. New Buffalo 2025 Ekolu Brown said that Memorial Day "is more than just a holiday."

"It is the sacred moment that we pause and reflect on the lives lost, the families forever changed and the future sacrifice so that our future we know today is safe," he said.

He said they can offer the families not only our gratitude but "our endearing promises your loved ones will never be forgotten."

"We thank them with the lives we live today in honor of their sacrifice...Those we honor today did their part; now, it's up to us to continue and guide those after us to a greater future."

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The Sunset Series by *New Buffalo Times* - Inspired by Light and Science

Mr. Blotto charms Three Oaks

STELLAR SOUNDS FILL HISTORIC ACORN

BY ALEXANDER FATOUROS

A wave of pure excitement washed over the historic Acorn Theater this past Saturday, May 24th, 2025, as Mr. Blotto, Chicago's legendary jam band, took the stage in Three Oaks, Michigan. For over three decades, since their formation in 1991 as an off-night musical venture, Mr. Blotto has captivated discerning audiences. Their performance in Three Oaks proved a resounding success, with a packed house filling the beloved venue. Beneath what felt like a starry constellation of their own making, the eager crowd was ready not just to hear, but to experience the full force of Mr. Blotto's celebrated rock prowess.

This reporter, by fortunate chance, scored a ticket and can confirm the electrifying atmosphere. Mr. Blotto's distinct, genre-defying rock sound permeated the theatre, showcasing an eclectic catalog of original songs alongside their celebrated improvisational flair and masterful renditions of familiar tunes. Their energetic performance, absolutely brimming with instrumental excellence, kept the audience thoroughly engaged, from the first note to the last. This commitment to their craft is evident across their critically acclaimed albums, including a notable collaboration with Grateful Dead lyricist John Perry Barlow.

The vibrant energy within the Acorn was a clear testament to Mr. Blotto's established presence and dedicated following. From intricate rhythms that invited subtle movement to soaring melodies that inspired reverie, the band delivered a show that profoundly resonated with the enthusiastic crowd. The historic charm of the Acorn Theater provided an exemplary backdrop for an evening of truly exceptional live music, leaving attendees with a memorable experience under the "starry" glow of Mr. Blotto's dynamic sound.

APPARENT DOUBLE MURDER/ SUICIDE NEAR LA PORTE

A man and two women were found dead inside a La Porte County home from an apparent double murder/suicide over the Memorial Day weekend.

La Porte County Police said officers on the night of Sunday, May 25, responded to the residence in the 5600 block of W. 250 North on a welfare check and soon discovered the bodies.

That's a few miles west of the city limits of La Porte near the Jongkind Park subdivision.

La Porte County Coroner Lynn Swanson identified the victims as Leonard Ciastko, 75, his wife Linda Ciastko, 73, and her mother, Harriet Kowalski, 102.

Swanson said all of the individuals suffered gunshot wounds to the head and were pronounced dead inside the home.

Swanson said it appears the man shot the two women before shooting himself.

She said she was still waiting for the results of autopsies and toxicology tests.

Police citing the ongoing investigation shed no light on the circumstances leading up to the deaths. — STAN MADDUX

Deplorable conditions involving water cited in mobile home park lawsuit

BY STAN MADDUX

The state is suing the owner of a La Porte County mobile home park on allegations that include discolored drinking water on a regular basis and extended water service disruptions.

The legal action was filed May 22 in La Porte Circuit Court by the Indiana Attorney General's Office against the owner of Deerfield Estates at 7701 S. U.S 35 just outside Kingsford Heights.

The owner, Nelson Communities, is the owner of six other mobile home communities in the state, according to the lawsuit.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said the "deplorable living conditions" in the over 90 lot state licensed mobile home park are centered around the park's water distribution system being in a regular state of disrepair.

The results of poor maintenance include brown and yellow water from the taps, low water pressure, flooding from leaks and extended service disruptions.

He said there's also been a lack of proper oversight at the mobile home community.

"My office will not stand by while vulnerable residents, including seniors, are exploited by landlords who shirk their legal responsibilities," Rokita said.

The action was taken after formal complaints from three residents dating back to January of 2024 were investigated and the attorney general's office after reaching out to the owner several times received no response, according to the lawsuit.

Specifically, the lawsuit alleges the park's water distribution lines between the main meter serving the entire community and resident hook-ups were not properly maintained.

As a result, the poor maintenance caused regular leaks in the system, low pressure coming out of faucets and, at times, water from taps to be yellow or brown in color, according to the lawsuit.

"Residents reported having to buy bottled water to use for cooking and bathing due to the poor water quality in the park," the lawsuit stated.

According to the lawsuit, addressing the leaks resulted in water service being turned off for long periods of time and numerous boil advisories, including one that lasted for 29 consecutive days.

The flood caused by the leaks occurred around and under the trailers owned by the residents.

In addition, the lawsuit alleges the defendant did not consistently inform residents about the shut-offs and boil advisories ahead of time.

For about a year until last October, there was also no onsite attendant or caretaker provided at the park for residents to contact regarding their concerns that also included being unfairly billed for the numerous water leaks, the lawsuit alleges.

On average, a normal monthly water bill for each resident went from about $45 to $150 during periods of leaks.

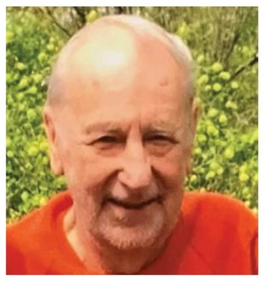
"Defendant had knowledge that the water systems it maintains had defects in need of repair but close to pass the cost of those leaks on to residents as part of a scheme to avoid those costs itself," the lawsuit stated.

The lawsuit seeks an undisclosed amount of restitution, civil penalties and costs on behalf of residents and the state along with an order for the defendant to properly fix the leaks in its water distribution system.

"We are holding Deerfield Estates accountable and fighting to protect the rights of Indiana families," Rokita said.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

OBITUARIES



Richard Aurther "Dick" Bender, Sr.

1935-2025

Richard Aurther "Dick" Bender, Sr., 90, of Three Oaks, died peacefully, Thursday, May 21, 2025, in the presence of his family.

His life began May 10, 1935 in Stevensville, Michigan, the first of two children born to George and Faith Bender. He married Diane Krone August 31, 1958 in Sawyer.

Dick served proudly in the U.S. Navy. In his younger years, he often helped his father at The Royal Blue store in Sawyer with meat cutting and providing service. Dick went to college to study tool and die and afterwards pursued a career at Vickers Engineering. He enjoyed gardening with his wife on their property. Dick loved watching NASCAR. He always cheered for Chevy. Dick also was very proud of the fact that he shared his birthday with his youngest daughter Shannon, and his granddaughter Kyriea.

Richard will be greatly missed by family and friends, two daughters, Renda (Joseph) DeMorrow of Hernando, Florida, Cindy (Jack Forker, Jr.) Bender of Three Oaks; one son, Richard (Sherrie) Bender II of Sawyer; six grandchildren, Kyriea, Dylan, Aaron, Richard III, Sophia, and David; one sister, Donna (Gene) Thomason of Sanford, Florida; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife of fifty-seven years, two daughters, Rebecah Bender (Moyer) and Shannon Bender (Milliken)

Family and friends will gather Wednesday, May 28, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. until time of service at 12:00 noon in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks. The Reverend Brandon Wittig will be officiating.

Richard will be laid to rest next to his wife in Riverside Cemetery where he will be awarded military honors.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Richard be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, 5791 Sawyer Road, Sawyer, Michigan 49125 or to Hospice at Home 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph, Michigan 49128

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

A runaway train...

On Wednesday I returned to DIC.

My first stop wasLori's office.

I handed her what I said were a dozen "amazing" Care Bears story springboards.

Lori rolled her eyes, but it was a friendly eyeroll.

Then she asked what she already knew.

"Where do you think you are on the delivery schedule for Care Bears?"

I told her, "When I came onboard, Sandy said we were a week behind.

I'm guessing writers haven't been streaming in with springboards and completed scripts since then."

Lori turned grim. "Jack, you and Sandy are two weeks behind on the schedule.

Producing and delivering a television series is like a runaway train.

Once it starts, Ihave to keep up with it or it'll jump the tracks.

The worst thing I can ever do is miss an airdate with broadcasters.

If I don't deliver a script on time, they'll pull the series and substitute something else in its place."

I wasn't not sure if that was really true or if it was just a boogeyman story to keep story editors on schedule.

Either way, Lori was serious about this.

Her voice even, she said, "It's like dominoes.

If the story springboards are slow coming in, it slows getting scripts written.

If scripts are late it holds up voice over artists and recording sessions.

If the recordings are late it holds up the animators.

And if it holds up the animators it means I can miss an airdate...and I don't miss airdates."

At a loss, I sat in the chair opposite her and asked, "What should I do?"

She said, "Get up out of the chair and go talk to Kevin."

As I walked from Lori's office to look for Kevin, everything she said swirled in my mind: "Producing and delivering a television series is like a runaway train.

Once it starts, I have to keep up with it or it'll jump the tracks.

The worst thing I can ever do is miss an airdate with broadcasters.

If I don't deliver a script on time, they'll pull the series.

"I don't miss airdates."

She'd personalized it, telling me because Sandy and I were behind schedule it would jeopardize her.

I wondered why she told me all that.

Lori was in charge of the writersand story editors.

If she thought Sandy wasn't moving fast enough, if she wanted to cut him loose it will be simple for her to do so.

No.

She wanted me to handle it, I think to see how I perform under pressure.

No problem.

I spotted Kevin O'Donnell, the exec in overall charge of DIC's production schedule, by a cubicle talking with an artist.

He saw me and motioned me closer, telling the artist, "I need your cubicle for a couple minutes."

The artist dutifully left.

Kevin smiled and asked how I was doing on Care Bears.

I told him I've done better and his smile faded.

When he asked what was up, I told him, "Lori tells me we're two weeks behind schedule and that if we miss an airdate the broadcasters could pull the series and that I should talk to you about it.

I'm just the assistant story editor.

What should I do?"

In a voice as friendly as if he was asking a bartender for another Guinness, Kevin said, "You should take his job."

I felt a chill.

I was right.

The guillotine blade was indeed ratcheting up.

I just never thought I would be the one cranking it.

HOROSCOPE

MAY 29-JUNE 4, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

It will be hard to decide what is real and what is a dream this week. If you're not careful, you might find yourself in the middle of a nightmare. People will use kind words and pretend to be soft spoken, but the truth is, they are baiting you. Best to steer clear of boisterous persons and events.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Keep a close eye on your purse strings this week. Even though you would like to pick up the tab, it is best to let friends pay this time. In relationships, take some time to be alone with that special someone. If single, this is a good time to connect. So, get yourself out there, and use that smile.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Just when you thought you had everything organized the fog comes rolling in making it hard to see just where things are headed. This is about having faith in the grand order of things. Sometimes no matter how much we plan and organize, things take a course only they know. Just let it flow.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Unresolved issues may come bubbling to the surface. The reason is, is because you need to communicate. You may have left a lot of things unsaid in the past and this evasive behavior has created an unresolved issue. So, when the chance comes again, tell them exactly why, and move on. Closure.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Fire up the grill and set up the volleyball net, family time is here. This is the week to get closer to family. Make time to connect with far away relatives and catch up on the latest happenings. Just be cautious of getting sucked into the middle of opposing relatives. Don't take sides, just listen.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Even though you think you have planned all your moves, don't worry when you find out you're not on the same page as everyone else. Unexpected offers will arise that will change the plans you have so carefully laid out. Let this be a blessing. You need a little more spontaneity these days.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Watch the over indulging this week. You may feel like throwing a huge party and inviting everyone you know, but don't blow off important projects or commitments to be the life of the party. Instead focus on getting your chores done early, so you won't have to deal with repercussions later.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Get ready for that energy boost, sitting around, or puttering around the house is out of the question. It is time to get up, get out, and have some fun. If you have to go solo, do it. Don't let anyone hold you back. The baby-sitting friends is over. Make your own way and splurge a little.

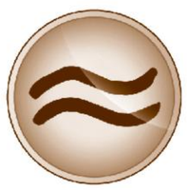
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Slow it down, Archer. It is time to rethink that party lifestyle you have created. Burning the candle at both ends equals a burn-out. Take time to regenerate and pull back a bit. All the going and doing has left little for you to hang on to. Turn off the phone, unplug the electronics, and breathe.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Be on the watch for energy vampires this week. You are always one people can count on in times of crisis, but don't blow off your responsibilities to save them again. It is important you let people figure out their own problems this time. Plus, you've got good times ahead, no more drama.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Just when you thought it was time to relax, your career, long term goals, or public life is calling you in for some over-time. Go with it, this is a great time to focus and create some long-term financial stability. Follow your hunches and the long hours you put in now will eventually pay off.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You may feel a little at odds with your family now, but the real issue is with yourself. If you have not been honoring your feelings and going along with the crowd, it could come back to haunt you now. The lesson is going with what you know is right the first time around and speaking your mind,

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time. — *Mark Twain*

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Sudoku

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1			3			8		2
							1	
4	3					6	7	
7			1		2			
9		2		7	4			
	8				3			
				9	7	3		
6		8						
	9	4			1			

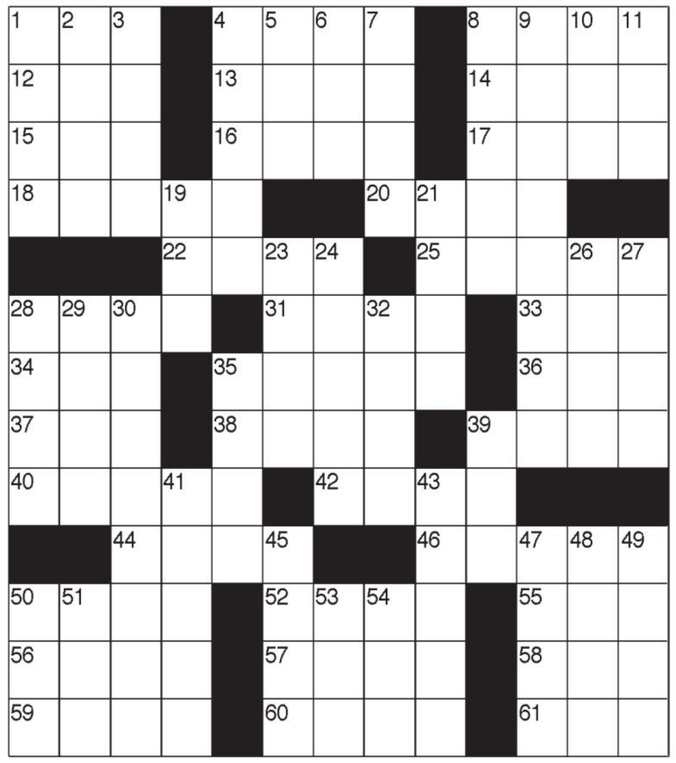
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Sliding piece
4 Sodium chloride
8 Polynesian spirit
12 Father: Arabic
13 Son of Samuel
14 John, Russian
15 "Blue Eagle"
16 Alternating current/direct current (abbr.)
17 Per. priestly caste
18 Of a city
20 Old-fashioned oath
22 Spore (pref.)
25 Hindu prayer position
28 Ketone (pref.)
31 Naked (pref.)
33 Foremost part
34 Exclamation
35 Coarse cotton fabric
36 Atl. Coast Conference (abbr.)
37 Stitchbird
38 Anti-satellite (abbr.)
39 Tamarisk salt tree
40 Aquarium fish
42 Remaining
44 Disposition
46 Door (Lat.)
50 Black (Fr.)
52 Unit of force
55 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
56 Sicilian volcano
57 Time period
58 Alligator fish
59 Brother of Cain
60 Enclosure
61 Beer

DOWN

1 Cancelled (abbr.)
2 Hillside shelter
3 Geological epoch
4 Nat'l Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People (abbr.)
5 Television channel
6 Sp. hero
7 Flavor
8 Moon of Saturn
9 Weaverbird
10 Horse
11 Black bird
19 Same (pref.)
21 Lope
23 Weight
24 Rustic
26 Salt
27 Action (suf.)
28 Cabbage
29 Repeat
30 Vitamin B1
32 Tropical fruit
35 Hamite people of Eth.
39 Luzon people
41 Marine zoophyte
43 Demon
45 June 6, 1944
47 Female camel
48 Hereditary property
49 Berne's river
50 Nat'l Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
51 Off-track betting (abbr.)
53 Positive vote
54 Correlative



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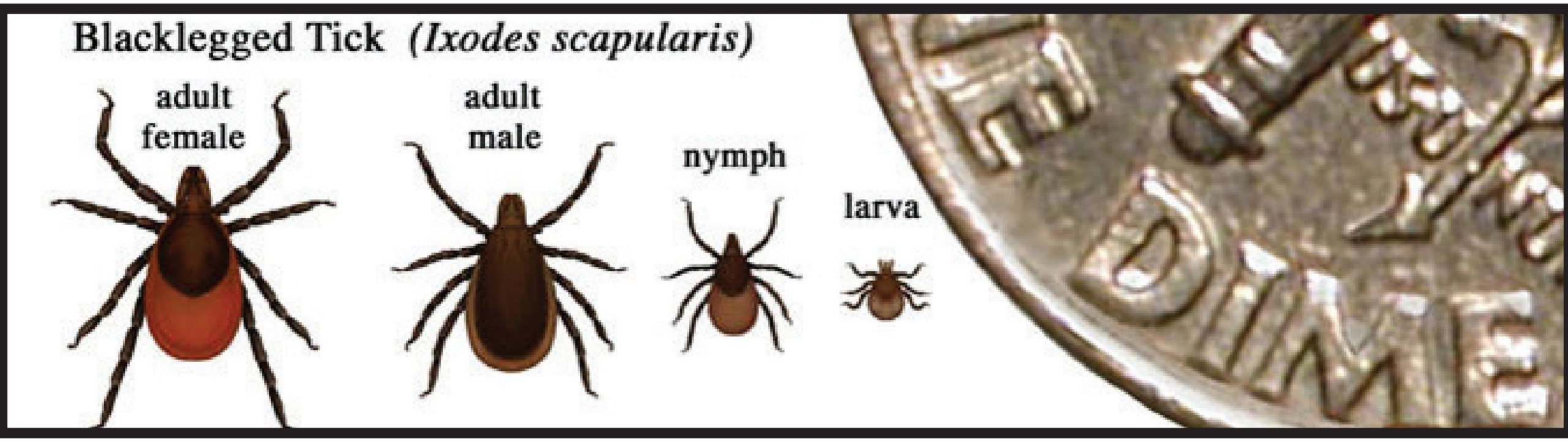

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for

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* EPIC-MRA 2011

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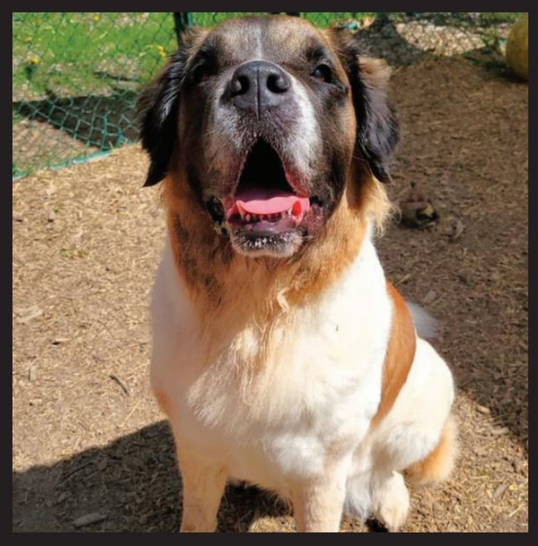
PET OF THE WEEK



MAYBELL

Maybell is a big girl, weighing around 86 pounds. She is a five-year-old Saint Bernard, that is spayed with her vaccinations up-to-date. She is a hard worker with polite manners, and loves treats. She will take them kindly, almost as if she is stealing them. Maybell is not a jumper, and will calmly sit and lie down a lot. She prefers to be the only pet in the house, and is child-friendly. She is also calm, cool, and collected when meeting new people. Going for walks, snuggling, and playing with squeaky toys are a few of her favorite things to do. Maybell's fur tangles easily and that isn't comfortable for anyone, so she willed to be brushed often. Make Maybell part of your family.

AVAILABLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

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Stylists work inside of Stella Beauty

Stella Beauty debuts in New Buffalo

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

For Alyse Flores, her journey to owning a salon started right on Whittaker Street in downtown New Buffalo.

In the 1960s, Flores said her aunts and grandmother had a salon, La Petite Beauty Salon, where Glik's is now located and, before that, Whittaker House.

Flores wasn't alive when they had the salon. Nevertheless, while growing up, she remembers relatives regaling tales of it.

"So, when I decided I wanted to open a salon I wanted it to be in New Buffalo to kind of follow their story," she said.

So, Flores opened Stella Beauty in New Buffalo. She decided to use the name Stella in honor of the Stella sisters, who ran the original salon.

Growing up, Flores said that she visited New Buffalo often, as both sets of her grandparents were here, and her parents attended New Buffalo High School. Her aunts have since passed; however, her grandmother is still alive.

"I felt it feels right - I need to go back there," she said, adding that New Buffalo still has Stellas here.

Before Stella, Flores worked in a salon in La Porte for about eight years. She also was trained in the Kacey Welch Method, a hair extension technique that involves the two-step process of sew-in Silk Wefts. Currently, she continues to be an educator of that method.

To alleviate any "anxiety," Flores said that Stella conducts business a bit differently: It operates as a gratuity-free salon, and customers pay a fixed rate for the time they've spent with a stylist, rather than individual prices for each service. This way, those who book an appointment will always know the exact cost of it at the time of booking.

Customers can book an appointment online, where they can find a description of potential services, such as a color and a cut for a two-hour appointment, that can be done in the time allotted.

"You can just book based on that – so we try to keep it simple," Flores said.

Hair services include haircuts, all over color, full and partial highlights, balayage, blowouts and updos. Services for brows and lashes include facial waxing, eyebrow lamination, eyebrow tinting, lash lifting and lash tinting. Bridal packages include hair and makeup trials for brides, mothers and bridesmaids.

Flores added that Stella does "lots of extensions," as their certified stylists specialize in expert extension application. Makeup artists also come in and work with promgoers.

Stella offers a gender-free menu.

Stella has its own line, Luna by Stella Beauty, with shampoo, conditioner, pomade, paste dry shampoo and hair oil, all of which is clean, and plant based.

Flores said that Stella has an open-door policy regarding stylists, as some may work at the salon on a part-time or full-time basis.

"We just share stations and everything - It's working out really nicely so far," she said.

Stella Beauty is located at 5 West Madison Street in New Buffalo. The salon, which is currently closed on Sundays, is by appointment only. For booking, visit www.stellabeautynb.com or call 269-783-5521.

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